Musket

Vol. XXXI, No. 6 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. March 20, 1998

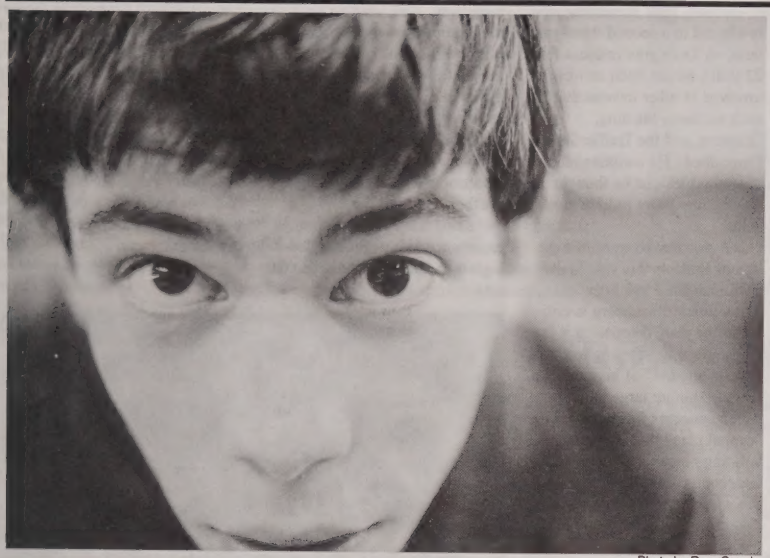


Photo by Ram Gowda

**CLASS OF THE LIVING DEAD** - Doing his impersonation of a test-weary, oxygen-deprived sophomore, senior (and part-time zombie) Radu Istrate attains the trance-like state that studying usually causes.

# State-mandated testing will annoy sophomores, faculty

By Kurt Kastorf

This May, sophomores will participate in Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing. The test, given to all students in 4th, 8th, and 10th grade, covers English, mathematics, and science & technology. The MCAS testing will disrupt teachers' plans for, among other things, Advanced Placement exam preparation.

Mandated by the Education Reform Law of 1993, Lexington High School began giving sample tests to sophomores in 1996. This year the test has been greatly expanded. It requires seventeen forty-five minutes blocks, and will take up 4 days of school. For the first time students will receive individual results detailing how they performed in each subject. The state will use the data to formulate a more refined test which will then be used as a graduation requirement.

**"The same people who brought us [the state requirement of] 990 hours are now taking 17 away [for standardized testing."**

*-Social studies teacher Richard Kollen*

The MCAS is considered to be a "high-stakes exam," according to Assistant Principal for Student Affairs Arthur Dulong. The tabulating of individual results will allow the state to "hold students accountable" because "they must pass to receive a diploma in the state of Massachusetts."

Previous state-wide standardized tests usually tested "minimal knowledge," but the MCAS is "intended to be a very rigorous exam," said Dulong.

Some faculty members have raised concern over potential negative impacts caused by the testing. Because it requires almost a full week of school, the test can be very disruptive. According to social studies teacher Richard Kollen, "The same people who brought us 990 hours are now taking 17 away." This lost time could be especially damaging in both history and biology, because the time lost comes immediately before the AP exams. It can also be stressful to students to test for four days.

Senior Ayon Roy is happy that he will graduate before testing becomes a major issue. "That would be a disaster if I had to take those tests," he commented. The administration has tried to make the testing more convenient for students.

According to Principal Philip Lanoue, the school originally planned to spread the test out over the course of two weeks, but many students felt the testing would interfere with class too much. He notes that "students would have to come to school prepared to test and then suddenly be ready for math or science. Since the test . . . is not something you can study for the night before. . . it's OK to get it all done with at once."

Faculty members are also concerned over the subject matter tests cover. Although most teachers agree the information on the test is important, some think its unreasonable that stu

MCAS *continued on page 2*

## Inside

**Unleashed Creativity**
Nathaniel Prottas discusses student-written dramas. p. 3

**Celebrate this March**
Gowda explains the value of women's history. p. 5

**Lashing Out**
More letters to the Editor than ever before. p. 5

**Win a Few, Lose a Few**
Alex Sherman laments the state pennant that got away from the boys' basketball team. p. 8

# LHS carbon dioxide levels are not a threat

By Ram Gowda

A report issued by an independent organization reveals that indoor carbon dioxide levels in a few rooms of the high school may be greater than optimum, but much too small to pose a significant health risks.

ATC Associates of Woburn, Massachusetts conducted an atmospheric survey of all rooms in the Lexington Public School system at the behest of the LPS Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, John Moynihan. According to Assistant Principal for Business and Facilities Anthony Capezza, the study was, "to the best of my knowledge, not a routine operation...I am not aware of any similar tests being conducted at LHS since my arrival in 1983."

Capezza hypothesized that the contracting of ATC was prompted by media-fueled concerns over so-called "sick buildings" with poor ventilation, including the Saltonstall building in Boston, as well as remarks by the staff on the "quality of the interior" of the Lexington public schools.

However, ATC's findings of $CO_2$ levels in some high school rooms reaching 1900 parts per million (ppm) did not include any conclusions or recommendations, nor "any numerical parameters," as Capezza stated.

There is no consistent threshold for what constitutes a hazardous level of $CO_2$. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's "indoor quality guideline" is 800 ppm, while the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's "regulatory standard" is 10,000 ppm. The former is a pure recommendation, while the latter represents an enforceable legal limit.

Biology teacher Robert Pohlman explained that excess $CO_2$ could induce fatigue in humans, although that would require "substantially greater" levels than were found at LHS.

Although Capezza was "not aware of any connection" between the air quality study and the proposed renovations of LHS, he indicated that future building projects may incorporate ATC's findings into the planning.

# Senior English projects challenge normal class structure

By Amie Shei

For seniors, second semester usually signifies the beginning of the traditional "senior slump." Yet for the seniors in Dr. Richard Shohet's, Ms. Katie Balaschak's, and Ms. Bee Lopretes' Modern Literature and Contemporary Literature classes, third quarter brings new independent and, in many cases, intense projects.

This years seniors are piloting an idea dreamed up by English department head Scott Webber. As part of the project, students do not have to attend class day-to-day; instead, they are allotted that class time to work on their projects independently. Students are required to keep detailed journal entries of their progress, to meet with their teachers at least four times during the quarter, and to present a final project to the class at the end of the quarter. Students who do not meet any of those requirements are immediately returned to class.

The project signals a shift

ENGLISH *continued on page 2*

Photo by Caroline Loomis

**WHAT ABOUT US?** - Freshmen Alki Delichatsios and Eric Camins discuss their future senior English project, "Grendel's Grip and Manual Expression" while they ignore their friends.

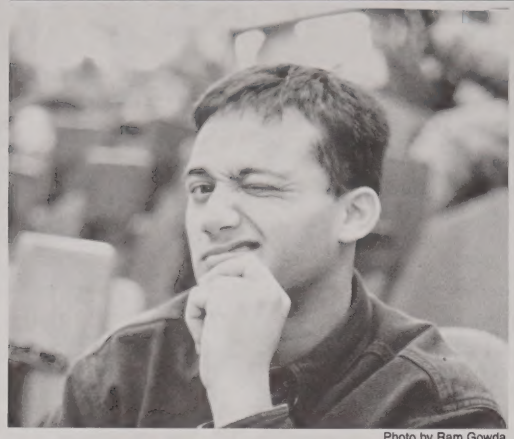


Photo by Ram Gowda

**YAY!** - Donning his "I'm so happy!" grin, senior Ayon Roy is glad that eighteen other seniors were named National Merit Finalists too.

# School Committee elections bring new faces, views on school issues

By Amal Dorai

On Monday, March 2, town residents voted in an election to determine several posts, including the three seats open on the School Committee. Two of these seats were for three-year terms, and one was for a one-year term.

The only incumbent seeking re-election, Fred Rosenberg, was re-elected to a second three-year term. A Lexington resident for 22 years, he has been actively involved in other town activities such as, Town Meeting, Lexpress, and the Traffic Safety Committee. He commented on several issues that he thought may be important to LHS students.

A primary concern of high school students this year is the state-mandated 990 hour requirement. Rosenberg is critical of the plan, dismissing it as the state's way of trying to find a "magic number" of instructional hours. Another large issue which concerns Rosenberg is the "capital plan" that includes building repairs and technology budgets for four of the town's schools. Increased enrollment in classes and the deterioration of the buildings may necessitate building renovations.

Recently, the town voted against an override to fund this $68.2 million plan. Rosenberg points out that if the override had passed last year, over half the cost of the combined building repairs / technology budget would have been picked up by the state. This year, to ensure that the override will pass, Rosenberg says that the School Committee has to educate the electorate about the most cost-effective ways to implement the necessary budgets.

Elected to the other three-year School Committee seat was Martin Long, a three-year resident of Lexington. Long supported the override, but realizes that the town does not feel the same way. This year, he says, the School Committee accomplished 0% of its capital plan goals after the override bill was defeated. He recommends rewriting the plan to 80% of what the Committee had originally planned for to reach a compromise palatable enough for the electorate.

Long has many years of experience as a negotiator for high-tech firms, but he says that he will try not to be the official negotiator for the Lexington Education Association contracts. He believes that a third-party negotiator should be hired to help the School Committee.

The one-year term went to Robin DiGiammarino, president of the Bowman PTA. DiGiammarino believes the biggest School Committee issues this year are class size, curriculum frameworks, contract negotiations, and learning from the override vote. She supported the school repair plan, believing that school building maintenance has been deferred too far. Along with Barry Peltz, the chairman of the School Committee, she will negotiate the renewal of the teacher contracts.

## News Briefs

### NINETEEN NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS NAMED

The 14,000 Finalists selected in the 1998 National Merit Scholarship competition include nineteen LHS seniors. Congratulations to Sarah Appleby, Tim Attanucci, Eun Young Choi, Jennie Choi, Melissa Chu, Anne Crawford, Tovah Day, Ram Gowda, Jason LeeKeenan, Matti Meharry, Sarah Park, Andrea Pawliczek, Brendan Reddy, Caitlin Rollins, Ayon Roy, Ranjan Roy, Jeremy Silber, Nick Storch, and Sheaumei Tsai.

### YEO SUIT PENDING SUPREME COURT REVIEW

The 1994 lawsuit of Lexington resident Douglas Yeo against the LHS Yearbook and *Musket* for not publishing an advertisement promoting teenage abstinence could now potentially reach the highest court in the land. Yeo recently filed a formal petition, known as a writ of certiorari, to have his case decided before the U.S. Supreme Court. The court will now determine whether Yeo's claim that in denying him the publication of his ad, the Yearbook and *Musket* violated his First Amendment right to freedom of speech merits its adjudication. The standing decision by the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals in late 1997 was against Yeo.

### SIX ADVANCE TO STATE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

After being selected from a pool of competitiors on February 28 at the Regional History Day competition in Belmont, the following will represent LHS at the State competition in Brockton on April 4: Naomi Goodman, Elizabeth Shapiro, Dramatic Presentation; Eleanor Finnegan and Ami Karkar, Group Project; and Becky Dedrick, Ken Weinstein, Research Paper.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

**RANK HAS ITS PRIVILEGES** - "No more standardized tests for us!" squeal seniors Caitlin Wolf, Caroline Kim, and Alice Lin.

# Seniors still mixed on independent English projects

ENGLISH *continued from page 1*

from traditional class to an independent project of special interest to the particular student. Most students are spending just as much or even more time on their independent projects as they would in the classroom.

Webber expressed, "It's exciting to see students bring their own interests into this. The projects are linked to their lives in manifestly obvious ways." The projects are, in many ways, a preview of the "real world," where there are no separations between subject areas such as English and science but where everything is interlinked.

The scattered conferences between student and teacher have allowed for a free dialog between the two. Balaschak, for example, expressed that she had "...gotten to know her students better by spending individual time with each one." She shared that students often sought her out after school and throughout the day to discuss specific issues regarding the project.

Yet many students were hesitant and reluctant at the beginning. Senior Radu Istrate remarked, "In the beginning...I thought it was a waste of time. But as I got more involved in my topic, I found that the project was an enjoyable and educational experience." Now that the project is underway, however, student feedback varies.

**"It's exciting to see students bring their own interests into this. The projects are linked to their lives in manifestly obvious ways."**

*-English Department head Scott Webber*

Senior Ayon Roy opted out of the project from the start. He explained, "It's not a big deal to get a few extra free blocks a week. Also, I like class, especially since there are only 7 students in the class right now." He also felt that there was too much focus on one small topic and that it was too intense a study. He prefers "reading a wide variety of books."

Senior Carl Tortola offered, "Since this is what we're probably going to be doing in college, I suppose that the English projects are a step in the right direction." Yet he acknowledged that there were flaws in the current setup: "Four checkpoints across ten weeks allows for a lot of students to fall through the cracks and get lazy." He admitted that he wouldn't be surprised if more and more people returned to class.

Some students not enrolled in Modern or Contemporary Literature remained skeptical. Senior Jason LeeKeenan, himself taking British Literature, asked, "How can [anyone] claim a quarter of not showing up for English is equivalent to the pounding day in and day out that many of us endure?" He continued, "It seems to work against the 990 plan, so I don't understand why the administration would promote such an idea." The school is currently trying to incorporate similar out-of-school activities into the 990 plan.

# MCAS testing seen as problematic, disruptive

MCAS *continued from page 2*

dents should know all the information by 10th grade. The state's intention in testing sophomores is to allow students a chance to retake any tests they did not pass. Unfortunately, students may be tested on information they cannot be expected to know. For example, in science students will be expected to know a significant amount of chemistry and physics. In the social studies section, which will be added to the test in coming years, students will need to answer questions about U.S. history. This seems to conflict with the state's expectation that schools teach U.S. history during junior year. Sophomores may only have the knowledge they learned in 8th grade to help them on the test. According to Kollen, "the history section contains a lot of modern history, which is often skimmed through because of limited time." In order to address these problems, teachers may need to blend subject matter together. Some faculty fear that the curriculum might be adjusted in order for students to do well on the test. According to Kollen, ". . . it is unreasonable for a school that receives very little money from the state to have to redesign its curriculum."

The test may have positive effects as well. "Implementing the test has given us a chance to rethink our curriculum," says Lanoue. The test may also reveal areas in which departments or individual students need work. According to spokesmen from the state Department of Education, the test will ensure students are "well prepared higher education or the world of work in the 21st century." It may take several years to determine the full effect of the state's new standards.

### ERRATA

The *Musket* would like to apologize to Tim Attanucci for mistakenly naming him a Presidential scholar nominee in the February 9 issue. We sincerely regret any resulting confusion and embarrassment.

# Math team takes first place at Harvard/M.I.T. competition

by Jason LeeKeenan

On Saturday, February 21, the LHS math team, coached by Mr. Rahman, won first place at the annual Harvard/Rice/Washington Mathematics Tournament, beating public, private and science/math magnet schools from around the nation in this prestigious math competition

For a number of years Rice University held the distinguished mathematics tournament. This year, Harvard University played host, opening the nationwide competition to New England high schools for the first time.

Individual events consisted of fifty-minute, ten-question individual exams in Algebra, Advanced Topics (such as trigonometry or special functions), Geometry, and Calculus. Additionally, there were two team events for groups of eight students. The Power Event required the teams to give short answers and proofs on questions. The Team Event was a fifty-minute exam testing all areas of high school mathematics.

Lexington's success stemmed from the math team's ability to flourish in both the individual and team competition. Lexington brought over twenty students, which aided its chances for high scores in the individual competition.

In the individual events, twelve different students from Lexington placed top forty nationally in at least one of their events: Yuen-Jong Liu, Jason LeeKeenan, Herbert Chen, Matti Meharry and Jackie Ou, Ken Weinstein, Steve Estes, Paul Jensen, Kevin Litwack, Saro Getzoyan, Greg Ingolia, and Jeremy Silber.

Lexington scored 195 points in the team round, beating out many top schools. Overall, Lexington won first place in the nation with a convincing 457 points, with Newton South placing second with 434 and Phillips Academy third with 387. Although this was the first year that a New England site was held for the competition, the top three schools in the nation were from Massachusetts.

Photo by Ram Gowda

**SPOILS OF WAR** - Senior Jason LeeKeenan is flocked by admirers wishing to congratulate him on his math success.

# Dramas show off student creativity

By Nathaniel Prottas

The musical never fails to create interest in drama at LHS, but after the props for productions such as this year's "Into the Woods" have been dismantled, theater often falls into the backdrop. However, for one willing to look for drama, there are ample rewards. This year several students have been writing and producing original plays with Steven Bogart, the school's drama teacher.

Every Tuesday morning at 7:00 am the group gathers to critique each other's work, talk with Mr. Bogart about their plays and do theater exercises. Among those participating in the independent study are Lisette Silva, David Frankel and Sarah Appleby. All three sent their finished scripts to a prestigious competition for Massachusetts student playwrights.

The culmination of these students' efforts with Mr. Bogart are scripts that have been performed at Lexington High School and Emerson College High School Drama Festival. David Frankel wrote a play called "The Castle," a dramatization of a novel by Kafka. Appleby's "Haggis", a farce on college admissions at Lexington High, was featured at Winterfest. The play centered on a girl who is abducted by aliens every afternoon, and thus has no time for extracurricular activities. To rectify this blotch on her academic transcript she founds an Alien Abductee Club. Although not on the scale of the annual musical, "Haggis" attests to the wonderful drama program and creative minds at work in the school.

**Many audience members found tears streaming down their faces as the lights came back on at the end of the play ["Luke's Mother"]...remark[ing] that it was one of the best plays they had ever seen.**

Lisette Silva's play, in stark contrast to "Haggis", was an intense drama centered on a dying child and his mother. Silva spent months perfecting the script and revising until what she "started off with was incredibly different" from her first drafts. In fact, only two short scenes remained intact. She reworked the others for months. Instead of performing at Winterfest, Silva decided to enter her play entitled "Luke's Mother" in the Emerson College High School Drama Festival. On February 1, the play won numerous awards.

The play's stars, junior Hallie Gnatovich, sophomore Jonah Mitropoulos and senior Ben Elgart, all received awards for excellence in acting at the Emerson Festival. The technical crew also took home an award for their work. And lastly, the playwright herself was honored with awards in both playwriting and directing. The competition at Emerson was composed of five high schools.

Due to its resounding success at Emerson, "Luke's Mother" was performed at Lexington High School several weeks after the competition. In an attempt to re-create Emerson's theater, Silva chose to stage the play in the round, with chairs for the audience on the stage. Although weeks had past since the cast's last performance, the show was a great success. A highly emotional performance, the play seemed to touch everyone. Many audience members found tears streaming down their faces as the lights came back on at the end of the play. And several remarked that it was one of the best plays they had ever seen.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

**LOOKING FORWARD** - Junior Camelle Doyle hopes that the Bridges Program will set the facts straight.

# Bridges link inner-city Boston with the Lexington community

By Ashwini Nadkarni

Though students sometimes laugh at the problems and stereotypes presented in Drama Social Issues programs, most stop paying attention to them after the applause dies down. Even when the school offers assemblies to deal with issues such as race or tolerance, students are generally apathetic and often don't see the reality behind the skits. The Bridges program was created to debunk stereotypes about the lifestyle of those who live in Boston and to give students and faculty the chance to visit real places with real people.

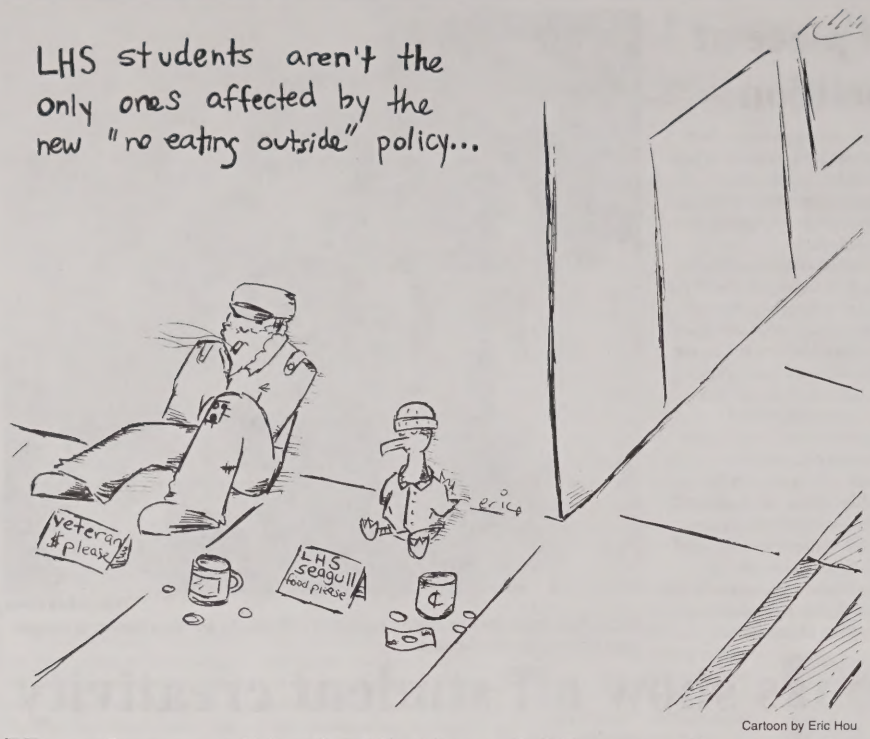
On March 28 the Bridges program will take participants on a tour through towns such as Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan. Hyde Park and the Northeastern African-American Master Artists in Residency Gallery are also stops on the tour. Selig Broitman, a leader of the Cultural Diversity Committee, said, "[The program] gives us the opportunity to value Boston. It's a chance to strengthen the links and shorten the distances between our communities."

The two year old program, created by Marcia Butman and LHS students and parents of the Boston community, is open to LHS staff, parents and students. The activity is sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Committee.

The Team Harmony event, which occurred on Tuesday, December 9 was another activity which aimed to eliminate stereotypes. Team Harmony, in the words of Broitman, is a "challenging and inspiring event that works toward eradicating anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, and stereotyping in our schools and communities." A group of thirty-five students and six faculty members represented LHS at the event. The appearances of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., made the event all the more successful. The Wang Center's Young at Arts program and various other groups gave theatrical and musical performances. Sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the annual event attracted students and teachers from all around Massachusetts.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

**TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER** - Using her innocuous visage as a front, alien senior Sarah Appleby aims to use her dramatic ability to take over the world.


LHS students aren't the only ones affected by the new "no eating outside" policy...
veteran $ please
LHS seagull food please
ERIC

Cartoon by Eric Hou

# How honorable is National Honor Society?

## *Evaluating the members and the selection process*

It is undeniable that my rejection from National Honor Society instigated my initial questioning of the group's purpose. Trying to rationalize my failure, I looked for NHS' faults. When my resentment had died down, however, I still felt that it had serious faults. I have sensed that NHS members are aware of these faults but do nothing to mend them. An activity whose members are so apathetic serves no purpose. In addition, the club's very faults suggest to me that NHS holds an inappropriately high position.

"National Honors Society is a service club," says the 1997-1998 LHS Student/Parent Handbook. LHS has another service organization, the highly-visible Community Service Club. My first question concerns the need for two service clubs. It seems inappropriate that there should be competing clubs. I'm sure that there would be a hesitant response to second Asian club whose functions were the same as the present club, especially if students were admitted on the basis of fluency in an Asian language and achievement in Asianess. The idea seems absurd. However, NHS "inducts students on the basis of their achievement in the areas of scholarship, service, character and leadership."

To be Asian, you do not need to be fluent in an Asian language. Similarly, to provide "service" you should not have to prove your scholarship. And let's not pretend; "scholarship" means grades. To help others you should not have to get good grades first. Though the service club competition may not take the form of bad sentiments between the two organizations, there is competition of numbers.

Both clubs seek students form the same pool of seniors to provide Lexington with community service. Rarely will there be a student who is an active member of both clubs. Why? For the same reason that you would not join both Asian clubs.

Complicating the need for a second service club is the huge presence and efficiency of the Community Service Club. The club constantly involves students in large, visible projects. The club connects students with all the state-wide events, as well as frequent local group activities, like leaf raking sessions. The Community Service Club's events are all large events which require the administration and organization that the Club provides. NHS' only group events are the Blood Drive which happens in the spring; bi-weekly meetings of Youth Explorations in Science, a science mentoring program at two elementary schools; and allegedly, though I have never heard this before, Habitat for Humanity. The rest of the members' service is performed on an individual basis. Individual service is obviously wonderful help, but, by definition, it does not need the sponsorship and organization of a group. Needlessly, the organization draws students away from the more effective Community Service Club.

Because NHS' activities are mostly individual, members often seem to lose the impetus to perform their service (an ironic idea in itself). There seems to be no support and guidance from the club. As a result much of the members' hours are not used to their full service potential. Students find silly ways to help neighbors with menial tasks. Others, sadly, become dishonest.

Becca Mayer, an LHS senior and president of the Community Service Club, has the authorization to sign community service hours sheets. She says that numerous times she has been confronted by desperate NHS members, who, at the end of their hours deadline (another ironic idea: volunteer service deadline), have not fulfilled their quota. They have asked her, in the good spirit of NHS' service, whether she will sign the forms for them and say that they did something. They ask her to lie.

**How do the [National Honor Society selection] committee members presume that they will judge a student's character? NHS should make clear its expectations of what character they are expecting. If they had done so, maybe I could have changed my character and have been admitted.**

The qualifications for NHS are also troublesome. I see no need for grades to be a determining factor in the community service realm. Maybe NHS wants to be a bunch of smart people doing nice things. If such is the case, why were some students' low grades more impressive than others' high grades to the selection committee?

Students with lower GPAs were taken over students with higher ones. If grades are to determine your ability to join NHS, the club should use the approach of other schools: everybody above a certain GPA is admitted. Without this numerical qualification, the process becomes very subjective. NHS throws around the 3.75 GPA as the requirement for an application, branding itself a club for high-achievers. But then, "character" is also a factor. Must you have good personal character to have good grades? That is implied. Also, I would like to know how the committee can be presumptuous enough to assume that it can include character as a criterion. How do the committee members presume that they will judge a student's character? NHS should make clear its expectations of what character they are expecting. If they had done so, maybe I could have changed my character and have been admitted.

**-Oliver Sellers-Garcia**

# Homophobia can disturb everyone

It is disturbing that after thirteen years of schooling and three years of health education people at this high school feel that it is within their rights to verbally accost and attempt to harass others over issues of sexual orientation. Shocking overt displays of hostility were shown recently as one student harassed another during a class because this student felt that the other chose to be "gay" and a "faggot." Hasn't he learned that sexual orientation is not based on clothing, or physical attributes, or behavior? One cannot tell if someone else is "gay": all such determinations are inherently arbitrary in that they are not based in fact, but merely antiquated stereotypes that some people still believe are applicable to today.

Numerous studies have concluded that homosexuality is something a person is born with, an innate biological and genetic pre-determination that unfortunately, within our society, has a stigma attached to it.

What right do individuals at this school have in determining what is "acceptable" and what is "unacceptable" in society, and why do they feel they need to enforce their visions of "right" and "wrong"? If statistics that one in every ten people are homosexual are accurate, it is horrible to think that those students who are gay, bisexual or lesbian might not be able to openly express their feelings of affection like the heterosexual students of our school for fear of being unduly branded and harassed by ignorant and vulgar classmates: students that feel they have some moral authority to tear down posters for the Gay-Straight Alliance, and make derogatory comments like "that's gay!" or "you queer." Other students restrain from saying anything to defend victims of such abuse, for fear that they too will become stigmatized by their peers.

Regardless of one's personal beliefs, gay bashing, which such acts of verbal abuse are, is nothing more than simple disrespect for others. Does it sadistically fulfill individuals when they harass others? It shouldn't, because such acts are the equivalent to racial and gender slurs: they show that the attacker doesn't have the capacity to rationally express himself or herself and instead reverts to primitive and infantile acts of degradation and name-calling. Homophobic acts are hate crimes, harassment that individuals are protected from under law. It's disheartening that many students feel that this attitude of disrespect is acceptable.

**-Eun Young Choi**

Musket

Editor-in-Chief....Sarah Park
News Editors....Evan Harris, Kurt Kastorf, Amie Shei
Editorials Editors....Eun Young Choi, Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Ken Weinstein
Features Editors....Jason LeeKeenan, Ashwini Nadkarni, Emily Wanderer
Sports Editors....Carolyn Shank, Alex Sherman, Becky Ticotsky
Layout Editors....Ram Gowda, Carl Tortola
Photo/Art Editors....Caroline Loomis, Dan Myung
Business Manager....Dave Rosner

* * *

Faculty Advisor....Sam Kafrissen
Printer....Belmont Printing Company

* * *

Reporters....Lien DeBrouckere, Amal Dorai, Jeannie Gorluvsky, Yuen-Jong Liu, Nathaniel Prottas, Nick Roetter
Photographers....Ram Gowda, Carl Tortola
Cartoonists....Eric Hou, Dave Rosner

**The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Mail short, tasteful letters to the editor to: MUSKET, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02173. The *Musket* can also be reached by e-mail at musket@stu.ci.lexington.ma.us. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. *Musket* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.**

# Letters to the Editor

### UNDERCLASSMEN DESERVE EQUAL COVERAGE

I congratulate you on your latest edition of the *Musket*. I always enjoy seeing pictures of my students in the school paper. However, I have not yet seen a picture of one of my *sophomore* students. In fact, of the twelve pictures of students in your latest edition, only one picture includes a sophomore, and there are no pictures of ninth grade students. I have noticed this pattern in all your issues this year. Aren't the freshmen and sophomores also students in this school? Shouldn't they be equally represented in your paper?

**-Ms. Balaschak**
**English Department**

### THE EDITORS' REPLY:

The *Musket* appreciates any suggestions to improve the quality of the paper and wishes to call attention to a few important points:

Because unexplained and unnecessary praise can be annoying, the *Musket* will clarify why a pat on the back could be expected. The current editors have made a conscientious effort to reflect the entire school community in each issue of the paper. Although including at least one photo of a freshman or sophomore in each issue is not a great record, it is a big improvement over what past *Musket*s have done. At least three issues of last year's eight-issue edition featured only juniors and seniors.

The purpose of a newspaper is to inform the reader about the events and issues which concern and affect the most people, not to make the reader feel good. The editors realize that people usually enjoy seeing photos of themselves and those with whom they identify. But *Musket* reporters and photographers cover events, not individuals. The fact that more events and activities target seniors and juniors rather than younger students is no fault of the *Musket*.

### NADKARNI'S DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE LHS BAND

I wish to respond to Ashwini Nadkarni's condescending and mean-spirited letter regarding community service for LHS band members. The LHS Band is asked by the Town Celebrations Committee, Veteran's Organizations, The Lion's Club, and the Minutemen to provide patriotic and marching music for the Veteran's Day, Patriots' Day, and Memorial Day parades. Veteran's and Memorial Day occur on non-school days, Patriots' Day falls in the middle of April vacation. While most of the school community enjoys a day off, LHS Band members arrive at school at 6:30 AM to prepare for the various events. Patriots' Day is and eight hour commitment with four different performance responsibilities. This is not a part of the curriculum. We would not undertake this activity at all if these organizations did not ask for our presence. In other words, we are performing a service for the community, at the request of the community. The senate has agreed that this participation is indeed acceptable to apply toward a student's community service requirement. I'm sorry if it is not lofty enough to meet Ms. Nadkarni's definition, but her definition is really not germane.

**-Jeffrey Leonard**
**LHS Band Director**

### NADKARNI SHOULD ATTEND BAND CONCERTS BEFORE MAKING JUDGMENTS

As noted in Ashwini Nadkarni's rather pretentious and fatuous article (Letters, February 9), the Lexington High School Band truly is a dedicated group. It seems, however, that Ms. Nadkarni fails to see the reasons why band members deserve community service credit for parade participation. Instead she compares it to any diligent act, even eating lunch. Perhaps, Ms. Nadkarni should break the shackles of her ignorance prior to writing such an article.

Ms. Nadkarni, clearly unfamiliar to the music world, boldly claims that playing an instrument merely involves "exhaling air into a band instrument." Perhaps, Ms. Nadkarni should attend a band concert or better yet the parades themselves to better understand the hard work and effort it takes to make a beautiful sound.

Lexington High School Band is invited to participate in town parades as a service to the community.

Yet it seems to Ms. Nadkarni that the band is ignoring "the elderly, the disadvantaged and the infirm who are in need of assistance." Perhaps, Ms. Nadkarni is unaware of how powerful and far-reaching music is. Music brightens the spirit of almost everyone. If Ms. Nadkarni was cognizant of the sparkling look in the eyes of people of all ages who attend the parades coupled with the continuous cheering and smiling, she may rethink her argument.

Although Ms. Nadkarni's article was filled with personal attacks toward the band group, I will not stoop that low. After all, she needed some fluff to cover her extremely weak argument. The entire band cordially invites Ms. Nadkarni to attend our concerts and the Town parades to better understand the issue before ignorantly taking a stand.

**-Mandar Muzumdar**
**Class of 1999**

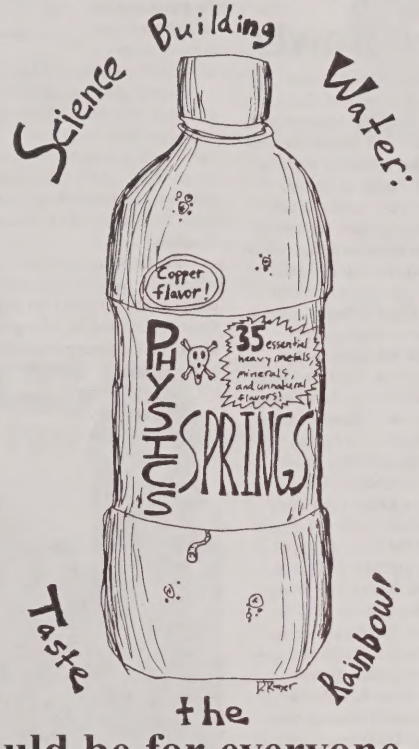
### CALLING HISTORY DAY A FLOP IS UNFAIR

"History Day flops while Kollen's class flourishes," the (Feb. 9) article written by Ram Gowda, Sarah Park, and Ami Karkar, begins admirably enough. The writers praise Richard Kollen's demanding and unique class, focusing on the accomplishments of several students.

Unfortunately, Gowda, Park, and Karkar chose not to look at individual achievement in History Day. Noting only the decreased participation, they wrote the entire competition off as a "flop."

As a participant in History Day, I invested substantial amounts of time and effort into my work. Many other students did the same. It is saddening to see the *Musket*, which should support the students' endeavors, print an article summarizing our efforts as a failure.

**-Naomi Goodman**
**Class of 1998**




# Women's history should be for everyone

Only guy in a class of females? Paradise, right? But being the only male in a women's history class doesn't seem to invite the same response. The common attitude is that only females can study this subject. Yet all students, male and female, can appreciate the value of learning about the historical role of famous and not so famous women. Every high school student should be aware of the unique female standpoint that is often lost in our male-dominated society.

Unfortunately, basic knowledge of women's history is still lacking considerably in the history curriculum. Aside from a few popularized heroines such as Pocahontas and Helen Keller, women who have made groundbreaking scientific discoveries, inspired lasting political and social reform, or authored some of the world's greatest literature remain relatively unknown.

We may praise Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's diplomatic skills, but how many of us remember that our first Representative to the United Nations was Eleanor Roosevelt and that she played a pivotal role in strengthening that institution? We may admire Mother Teresa's selfless devotion to humanitarian charity, but who knows that this year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Jody Williams for her landmark efforts to eliminate the scourge of land mines?

Students need to learn the simple facts of women's history before they can form educated opinions on how society in general has evolved, or they will be swayed instead by misconceptions. The tougher task is to confront the new perspectives that women's history offers. One's viewpoint is so innately wrapped up in one's own identity that seeing the feminine point-of-view becomes truly mind-wrenching. Yes, men are always joking that they'll never understand women, but underlying this bandied phrase is a note of truth: men aren't women. For a male student of women's history, there is the sad realization that he can never examine history with the same outlook his female classmates have. There is the tiniest hint of being an outsider in class discussions of issues like sexual harassment, on which a male can't share the same perspective with females.

**In a [Women's history] class, just thinking in radically different fashions is an eye-opening learning experience. Male perspectives offer needed balance in a subject that demands careful attention.**

However, this is not to say males can't or shouldn't study women's history. On the contrary, making the effort to reexamine the old notions of past and present events is in itself enlightening. Slavery and the Holocaust have special significance for African-Americans and Jews; yet these events are so important that everyone must study them.

In a class, just thinking in radically different fashions is an eye-opening learning experience. Male perspectives offer needed balance in a subject that demands careful attention. Women's history is not only a history of women; it's a history *by* women as well. Viewing history through the lens of a focus on women forces students to look at details and ideas that weren't apparent before. The history of the abolitionist and temperance movements in America would not be complete without studying the interrelated fight for women's suffrage.

**-Ram Gowda**

# Regular homeroom periods could solve attendance ailments

You're slouching comfortably at your desk, internally humming a few bars of some Bob Marley while your English teacher pontificates on the virtues of the semicolon. Suddenly, a rat-a-ta-tapping at the door interrupts class. A jovial administrator enters, joking with your teacher about how the semicolon is the Rodney Dangerfield of punctuation marks. Then, the fun is over. The administrator calls a name. The owner of the name stands, and with varying defiance, depending upon temperament, marches to the door accompanied by a chorus of "ooh"s.

Class continues until, five minutes later, the accosted party returns, studiously avoiding eye contact with all in the room. The aforementioned administrator sticks his head into the classroom, throwing a warning stare at any who might dare skip a future class or fail to respect a semicolon.

We have all been witness to such a scene many, many times. Those marked for unexcused absences, whether due to actual truancy or clerical error, are all subject to public humiliation. A single study hall teacher making a careless mistake with the attendance cards can result in your being forced to offer up explanations for days to your classmates, while some may persist in their misconceptions regardless of what you say.

The cause behind these difficulties is simple, but serious. Reporting of unexcused absences and assigning of detentions should be private matters - pulling a student out of class, in effect, informs everyone in the room that the student has been disciplined. Meanwhile, the vice-principals could surely make better use of their time than wandering around the school knocking on doors to deal with individual students.

This method of reporting unexcused absences to students is as ineffective for the administration as it is embarrassing for the students. Improvements have been made, as students now receive a day after an initial phone call to rectify the matter. Still, why keep the "administrator-knock" process at all?

The solution lies in restoring the much-needed weekly homeroom/announcement period. In a scant five minutes, students could receive detention slips humiliation-free, as well as notices on problems that often are not brought to our attention until too late. Without regular homerooms, the first late notice from the library is often a bill, addressed to your parents. Also, excess gym absences are rarely discovered until a C shows up on your report card.

The problem with reporting unexcused absences is only one of many that could be alleviated by reviving a homeroom period. Students might actually hear P.A. announcements, which are often ignored in the morning. Hours lost toward 990 would be negligible, at most reaching around five hours for the year. In their newfound free time, the administrators could easily think up a scheme to regain this lost time. The "administrator-knock" rite of passage is obsolete and cruel - the simple solution of bringing back homeroom is our best hope.

**-Ken Weinstein**

Photo by Carl Tortola

**FREAK SHOW** - With her prehensile tongue curled, senior Rachel Roditi does the act she performed at Cabaret, while seniors Jerome Kirkpatrick and Brendan Reddy gawk.

# Cabaret delights all with international food and fun

By Lien DeBrouckere and David Rosner

Many dramatic and musical acts, and an especially vivacious audience made this year's Cabaret, held on Friday, March 6th, one of the best in a long time. The impressive turnout rivaled last year's successful presentation. Cabaret, which is an evening of multicultural entertainment and appetizing confections, showcased the essence of the sound international community at LHS.

Friday after school J-CAF's sedate atmosphere was pleasantly disrupted by dedicated members of the French Club, as they transformed the bland, smelly cafeteria into an elegant, sweet-smelling French-themed reception hall.

**"[The spectacular attendance at this year's soiree] was even better than last year's [turnout]."**

*-Junior Lakshmi Gowda*

Guests had the pleasure of dining on a number of different dishes prepared by local merchants and French Club members. Audience members were delighted by the efforts of the hard working wait staff, who continuously provided additional food and drinks to dine on during the show.

The fabulous acts featured this year, which were painstakingly booked and scheduled by officers Lien DeBrouckere, Dave Rosner, and Nick Vargelis, were super. Performances ranged from the always awesome a cappella groups to skits by the Improv Troupe, a wacky skit titled "The Raygun Repairmen," the feral sounds of three live bands, and the reading of several engrossing pieces of poetry.

The evening was complete thanks to a terrific turnout of more than 150 people. Club members and Cabaret-goers alike were astonished by the spectacular attendance at this year's soiree. Lakshmi Gowda, a French Club officer, exclaimed that "...it was even better than last year's [turnout]."

After the satisfied audience made their way out of J-Caf, the French Club officers, along with their trusty advisor Mme. Karen "Gigi" Girondel, began to clean up the colossal mess that was once a cafeteria. As they recuperated from a hectic week that ended with a really big bang, they realized that the Cabaret had been a spectacular success.

Held the night before on Thursday, March 5th, German Fest, or Deutsches Fest, was also wonderful. The food prepared by the German students was followed by interesting and amusing skits that held the interest of even the audience members who knew no German. The hard work of the students paid off with a wonderful Fest.

# Lexington buzzes in to place three teams in Science Bowls

By Yuen-Jong Liu

"What is the standard unit for a solid angl...(DING!)...Team A Captain?"

"Steradian." This was the kind of fast-paced action that resounded throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) Science Bowl on Saturday, February 27, at UMass Lowell. This annual, nationwide competition allows high school students to test their knowledge and speed in answering questions about general science, earth science, astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, and math. Lexington's five-person team placed third in New England, unable to reclaim its regional championship from last year.

The DOE science bowl consisted of an eight-round round-robin tournament in which teams pitted their science skills against one another. In this extremely difficult and prestigious competition, only the champion team of the New England division moves on to the National Science Bowl held in Washington D.C.

Lexington High School sent a team of five outstanding science students, consisting of captain Ram Gowda, Jason LeeKeenan, Jeremy Silber, Mandar Muzumdar, and Ken Weinstein. Clarke Middle School science teacher Mark Waldeck and LHS physics teacher Michael Lerner helped coach the team members. Lexington easily won six of their eight rounds but lost to Cambridge Rindge & Latin and Newton North, who respectively placed first and second.

On the same day the DOE Science Bowl was taking place, the Massachusetts regional level of the first annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) was held at the World Trade Center in Boston. Modeled after the DOE Science Bowl, the NOSB tested high school students in the sciences with a focus on ocean-related topics. The participants had to answer such questions as, "In which direction does the Coriolis effect deflect ocean currents in the Northern Hemisphere?"

Lexington sent two teams to the NOSB: the Lexington A Team, coached by Missy Carpenter, wife of LHS biology teacher Scott Carpenter, consisted of captain Liz Goodridge, John D'Amore, Greg Ingolia, Amal Dorai, and Alex Pollen, while the B team, coached by Carpenter, consisted of captain Rafael Bras, Perry Dougherty, Rudi Faust, Andrew Lin, and Yuen-Jong Liu. After losing twice, The Lexington A team placed third overall, winning free guided tours of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The B team remained undefeated, earning the first place victory at the NOSB, and winning free research experiences that include a day trip on the R/V *Asterias* as part of an oceanographic research team. On April 24-26, the Lexington B team will compete at the national level, following the championship tradition of last year's B team at the DOE Science Bowl.

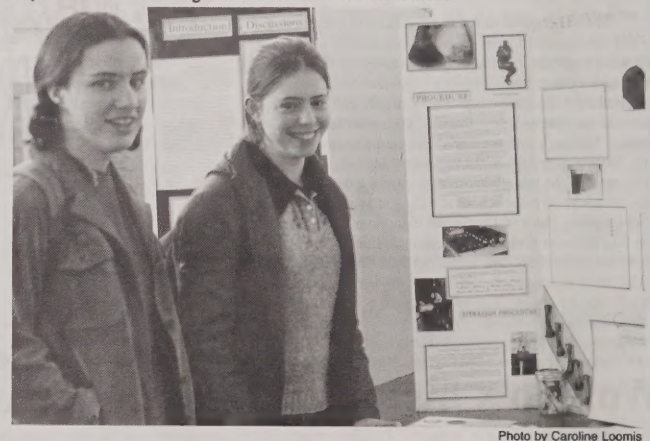


Photo by Caroline Loomis

**SCIENCE PROJECT THIS, BUDDY** - Juniors Claire Cuno and Naomi Levine love to pore over the science projects and learn fun things about life's mysteries.

# Language clubs celebrate cultural variety

By Jeannie Gorluvsky

The annual course selection process is now beginning at LHS, and many students are choosing to take foreign language classes next year. Students have a variety of reasons for learning Spanish, French, Latin, German, or Italian. While some want to prepare for college, others want to prepare for a future international career. Then there are those who are simply interested in learning a new language.

Students particularly fascinated by the language they pursue also explore the culture of the country in which the language is spoken. "I was born in Mexico and would like to share the story of my origin with the rest of the school," said senior Alexandra Buchmann. Such members of our student body have the chance to learn and share cultural knowledge in the Spanish, French, and Italian clubs.

The Spanish Club is currently continuing its long tradition of being active at LHS. In the past, the club organized a fashion show at the Lexington Senior Center and raised money for Lexington's sister city in Nicaragua to rebuild a destroyed school. This year, co-presidents seniors Paul Bombara and Dan Kamen have organized many Spanish Club activities with the assistance of their advisor, Beatriz DesLoges. "The Spanish club is a way of helping people become culturally aware," explains Bombara. The club has already held a candy-sale of "calavera" (skull) lollipops. The activity served two purposes — to commemorate Mexico's Day of the Dead, a traditional holiday held on November 2nd, and to raise funds to help increase the club's treasury. To put the treasury money to good use, "There is a $200 scholarship given at the end of the year for an active, participating senior," said DesLoges.

**"The Spanish club is a way of helping people become culturally aware."**

*-Senior Paul Bombara*

The Spanish Club has several activities planned for the next few months. The club will take a trip to Casa Romero, a downtown Boston restaurant with authentic Spanish food, on Thursday, March 12th. There is also a Latin-American folk-dance show scheduled for Friday, March 20th. "Bajucol," a Colombian folkloric dance company made up of teenagers, will perform Hispanic dances during G-block in the auditorium for a fee of $3.50 per person. DesLoges hopes many Spanish students from LHS, as well as from other Lexington and neighboring schools will be able to attend the cultural dance.

The French Club has also been very active this year. So far, they have organized activities in which members tasted French cheeses, made crepes, and carved pumpkins with French exchange students. "We are very busy. Our membership has gone up, and there is a member meeting every other week on Tuesday," said president junior Lien De Brouckere. Most recently, the French Club organized the International Cabaret, " an evening of musical and dramatic entertainment," which took place on Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m. Summing up the French Club experience, junior Holly Arthur remarked, "It's just great because you get a little taste of Paris in D House."

Since this was the first year that Italian has been offered as a foreign language choice, the Italian club is relatively new. "They started an Italian class, so we started the club," explained president senior Carl Tortola. Tortola, club advisor Dan Schadegian, and the other members of the Italian Club have made cookies two times this year. "We also had a friendly playground snowball fight with the Asian club, off school grounds, of course," joked Tortola.

# Ups and downs for boys' b-ball in Division 1 North Tournament

B-BALL *continued from page 8*

However, Farias is not disappointed with his team. A 16-4 record, a Middlesex League Title (Farias 11th league title at LHS, but first in five years), and #5 ranking to enter the tournament is not an accomplishment to play down.

Lexington's principal goal at the outset of the season was to win the League Title, and their players responded with big wins over Melrose, Stoneham, and Burlington down the stretch. Yet, Farias believes that these big wins in the latter part of the season may have contributed to his team being upset by the12th ranked 11-9 Crimson Tide, who incidentally lost to Haverhill in the next round of the tournament.

"I think we wore down toward the end of the season," Farias explained, "when we had to play three games in five days during the second to last week of the season against three quality teams, Stoneham, Melrose, and Belmont, I think there was a fatigue factor which caught up with us."

In addition to Lexington's first league championship since 92-93, the squad also sported some individual accomplishments. Taj Washington, Lexington's senior co-captain, averaged over 25 points a game, twice breaking the Lexington High School single game scoring record. He was named

**"I think we wore down toward the end of the season when we had to play three games in five days . . . I think there was a fatigue factor which caught up with us."**

*-Coach Bob Farias*

Middlesex League MVP and will be able to find a college at which he can continue his basketball career.

Mike Ifill was named a Middlesex League All-star Steve Nawoichik dominated at times, using his size and aggressive style of play to overpower smaller foes. Eric Kelley may have been Lexington's steadiest guard throughout the year, hitting many clutch three pointers and turning the ball over infrequently.

As far as Lexington's future goes, the Minutemen's back court should be one of if not the best in the Middlesex League next season. Junior guards Mehran Ahmed, who won the Middlesex League three point contest last year, and Jason Hirschhorn, who took home the award this season, should have field days from the outside next season.

Forwards Neal Foley, Keith Wilson, and CJ Enere will have to step up a Lexington's experienced big men, as the front court of the Blue and Gold will all graduate at the end of the year. New faces will have to shine next season if Lexington wants to compete inside with some of the better teams in the Middlesex League.

CJ Enere will be a dominant player in the Middlesex League. He'll have to rise to the occasion next season because well be counting on him a lot, said Farias. The fact cannot be denied, however, that Farias is saddened that this year's season ended so soon.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

**PAWLI "BODY" CZEK** - Senior Andrea Pawliczek can work her way through the opposing team like no one else.

# Pawliczek triumphs while team struggles

By Becky Ticotsky

Despite the efforts of the best player in the Middlesex League, the LHS girls' basketball team could not overcome the loss of two starters and missed the MIAA tournament for the third straight year. Freshman Laura Yasaitis filled in impressively for injured center Rebecca Ginns, but team chemistry suffered, according to coach Laura Lasa.

"Prior to Rebecca getting hurt, I think we would have cruised into the tournament," said Lasa, whose team started 5-2 before sliding to 8-12. In addition to a "seasoned center," the Minutemaids lacked a three-point shooter. Without those two elements and injured guard Shanel Mercer, opposing defenses were able to key on league MVP Andrea Pawliczek.

"We have a great scorer," Lasa said after a loss to Woburn. "[But] when the other team does a decent job on her, we're going to struggle." Pawliczek, the school's leading female scorer since surpassing Sharon Hayes' point total of 1,024, finished her career with 1,236 points. According to Lasa, Pawliczek was LHS' best girls' basketball player since Hayes graduated 14 years ago.

"It was fun to watch [Pawliczek] over the years and see how much her game improved," Lasa said. "This year, she played the best defense of her career. She was pretty much the entire team the last three years. She made everyone else around her play much better."

Senior co-captain Kara McManus quietly put together an outstanding season, as well. Averaging close to 10 points per game and pulling down rebounds with authority, the forward was named to her first league All-Star team.

# Girls' hockey ends exceptional season in division tournament

By Caroline Loomis

The Lexington girls' hockey team has truly had a phenomenal first season. The Minutemaids finished off the regular season with two wins over Division 1 teams, Framingham and Lincoln-Sudbury, in two days. EMASS girls' hockey is split into two divisions, with Division 1 being the more competitive division. Lexington is a Division 2 team, which made the two wins very impressive.

Heading into the Division 2 tournament, Lexington was ranked third in the league. In the first tournament game, the Maids crushed Watertown. Lexington and Watertown had a strange competitive record during the regular season, beating them early in the season, but then falling to Watertown due to an unfortunate goalie mix-up a bit later in the season. In the Watertown tournament game, Jillian Savoy had a beautiful shut-out, leaving Lexington with a gleaming 7-0 win. "Jillian has been one of the team's greatest assets this year," said a senior Maid. "She's really come through in clutch situations."

In the second tournament game on March 4th, Lexington faced Needham. Having beaten Needham once in the regular season and losing by one goal in their second match up, Lexington had a chance at winning and advancing to the final. Sadly, Needham came in on a high note, and took Lexington for a tiring ride. Trying a new strategy, Lexington played only its first two lines for the majority of the game. The Maids played with vigor and strength, scoring two goals along the way. All-stars freshman Emily Gryp and senior Allison Stebe in her final high school game scored the two goals for Lexington amid the roars of the supportive crowd at the Belmont ice rink. But Needham came on hard, and took Lexington out of the running at the tournament final with a 5-2 defeat. However, the season is in no way tainted by this loss. In its first year as a a varsity team, the Lexington girls' ice hockey team showed the rest of the league that it is now and will be in the years to come a true competitive force.

Photo by Dan Myung

**GET A GRIP** - Freshman Emily Gryp heads towards the goal for yet another outstanding shot.

# Lexington's Lock prevails at Div. 1 State swim meet

By Becky Ticotsky

Senior Charles Lock is a fraction of a second away from being the fastest swimmer in Massachusetts. On March 1 at the Division 1 State swim meet, Lock swam the 100 yard butterfly in 53.22 seconds, about one tenth behind the winner. The time, which placed him second out of 25 competitors, was close to Lock's lifetime best. The upbeat Locke only had to say, "I came close, what can I say. I had a blast."

Two minutes after his impressive finish in the fly, Lock swam a strong 100 yard freestyle to earn 13th in a field of 35. While Lock was the only LHS boys' swimmer to qualify for States, his teammates wound up 13th in the 25-team sectional meet the previous weekend.

In addition to Lock's second and ninth place finishes in the 100 fly and 100 free, respectively, the medley relay team of junior Ken Longo, sophomore Alex Talarico, Lock, and senior Jay Corr came in tenth. The team finished the regular season 8-1 and second in the league meet to Belmont.

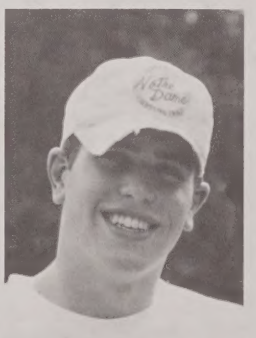


Photo by Brent Murakami

**"LOCK" NESS MONSTER** - Senior Charles Lock is unsinkable and unbeatable.

# A win and a loss for boys' b-ball

By Alex Sherman

One banner will be raised to the walls of the Lexington Ralph Lord Gymnasium this year in honor of the team's Middlesex League Championship. Unfortunately, there will be no state championship pennant for the Minutemen this year, as a team with the nickname of the Crimson Tide had the smarts of Harvard and the toughness of Alabama to beat Lexington in first round of the Division 1 North tournament, 77-66. "We were physically overmatched", said Coach Bob Farias, "I thought we played pretty well, but we couldn't keep up with them physically."

Everett took an early three point lead into half time, but the momentum was definitely with Lexington, who went on an 8-2 run to close out the half. Lexington's trademark fullcourt press did not unnerve the Crimson Tide. Everett devised a strategy in the first half which they executed to perfection throughout the game where the out of bounds man threw a long baseball style pass to a streaking player for a lay-up.

Many times in the first half, this man was Erik Costin, who scored 18 first half points, half of Everett's total. However, Lexington had been a second half team during the course of the season, so the three point margin was nothing that couldn't be overcome. A 15 point differential with three minutes to play is a slightly different story. Everett dominated the second half by consistently finding the bottom of the net from the both the inside and the outside while Lexington fell flat on its face.

**"You can win a Middlesex League Championship with seniors who are only 17 years old, like ours are this season, but you're not going to be able to win a state title with seniors who aren't."**

*-Coach Bob Farias*

The Minutemen shot a woeful 23% from the field after the break. Co-Captain Jason Solomon and Middlesex League All-star Game MVP Mehran Ahmed combined for only five points compared to their normal total average of 23.6 a game. Taj Washington ended with a solid total of 32, but the senior could not carry the burden all by himself.

Everett forwards Pat McTomney and Kevin Herrington overpowered Lexington in the paint, scoring a combined total of points and grabbing 24 rebounds. The dynamic duo made up for the loss of starting center Mike Colameta, who was ejected early in the second half after scoring only 5 points for reasons which cannot be published.

"The bottom line is Everett played more physically than we did, Farias commented. You can win a Middlesex League Championship with seniors who are only 17 years old, like ours are this season, but you're not going to be able to win a state title with seniors who aren't."

B-BALL *continued on page 7*

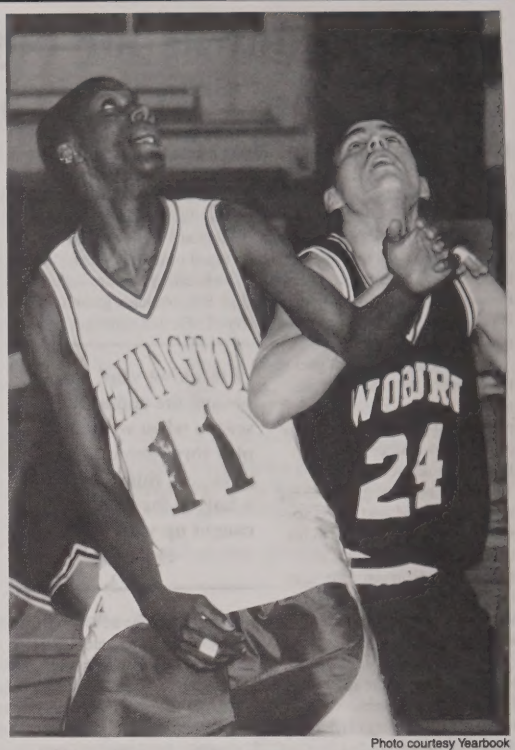


Photo courtesy Yearbook

**BE LIKE MIKE** - Senior Mike Ifill stands poised under the net to take the rebound.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

**EYE OF THE TIGER** - Junior Greg Jean-Dennis stares into the eyes of his opponent, waiting for the eventual attack.

# Wrestlers rank high in state, New England

By Nick Roetter

At the beginning of this year's wrestling season, Coach Kevin Russo stated how lucky he was that in every year he's coached at Lexington, his team had accomplished something that the previous year's edition did not.

Thanks to the Minutemen's best-ever eighth place showing at the 1998 Division 1 state tournament on Feb. 20-21 and the qualification of three LHS wrestlers for New England's, this upward trend continues.

As they have been doing all season, it was the five 'big guns' who were able to show that Lexington is a prime time tournament team.

Seniors Alex Samuels (130 lbs.) and Joe McCann (171) finished third at States, while classmate Riccardo Rullo (135) came in fourth. Juniors Scott Cokely (103) and David Kelly (140) showed that they will be among the state's best again next year with their fifth place finishes. Samuels was tough, as he has been all season, and lost by the narrowest of margins, 8-7, in the State tournament.

The year can serve as sort of an icing on the cake for Rullo, who now holds the distinction of being only the second wrestler in school history (his brother Carmine did it two years ago) to place in States two years in a row.

While only the three seniors qualified for competition in the following weekend's All-States with top four finishes, the two underclassmen beat significant opponents to earn impressive fifth place honors and advanced as alternates.

At the prestigious All-State tournament, Rullo and Samuels finished sixth in their respective weight classes and McCann placed fourth. All three seniors also wrestled in the New England tournament, the highest level of high school wrestling, on March 6-7.

While Samuels and Rullo were defeated by opponents who each finished in the top three in New England, McCann continued his streak of extraordinary wrestling, ending up fifth. The 171-pounder is only the third LHS wrestler in history to finish in the top six at New England's. "When the going got tough, Joe just got better and better," said Russo.

# Girls' indoor track derails competition, captures league championship

By Carolyn Shank

This indoor season has easily been one of the most successful for Lexington in recent years. With many seniors on the team, it will also be a season whose success will be difficult to duplicate in the years to come.

The girls' team, after clinching the Middlesex League championship, won the Middlesex League Challenge on Valentine's Day meet at Reading, scoring 90 points. Belmont finished second with a score of 63.

First-place finishers at the Challenge meet included Ebony Jack in the 55-meter dash (7.5), Carolyn Shank in the 55-meter hurdles (8.5), and the 4 by 400 meter relay team of Shank, Adriana Schick, Amie Shei, and Grace Licorish, running a time of 4:16.0.

The boys' team placed third behind Woburn and Reading. Josh Muller (first in the 600), Gates Joseph (2nd in the 2-mile), David Wong and Erik Wang (2nd and 3rd in the dash), and the 4 by 400 meter relay team (Wang, Ethan Fried, Mike McCormack, and Muller, 1st) all performed well at the meet.

On February 21, both teams headed to the Reggie Lewis Center for the Class A meet. Muller had another outstanding day, placing 1st in the 600 and running anchor leg on the 4 by 400 meter relay, which placed well also.

**At the All-State meet, the boys' 4 by 400 team ran an outstanding race, placing third with a time of 3:26, qualifying the team for Nationals.**

The Minutemaids placed third overall in Class A, behind track powerhouses Newton North and Wachusett Regional. Licorish and Jack (2nd and 5th in the dash), Shank (2nd the hurdles), and Kathy Yang all placed in individual events. The 4 by 800 relay, composed of Eleanor Finnegan, Kate Waller, Katie Walker, and Leslie King, placed 4th. In the 4 by 200 relay, Jack, Schick, Shei, and Licorish placed 5th. Finally, Shank, King, Schick, and Shei ran to a 4th-place finish in the 4 by 400 relay. All of the members of both the boys' and girls' teams who placed at the Class Meet advanced to All-States on February 28.

At the All-State meet, the Minutemen placed seventh in the state. The Maids placed 6th overall. Muller ran phenomenally in the 600, placing third with a time of 1:22.04. Licorish and Jack placed 3rd and 4th in the dash, while Shank placed 4th in the hurdles. The girls' 4 by 200 meter relay finished in 5th with a time of 1:48.

Finally, the boys' 4 by 400 team ran an outstanding race, placing third with a time of 3:26, qualifying the team for Nationals. This relay was run by the seasoned and talented quartet of Wang, Fried, McCormack, and Muller.

Photo by Dan Myung

**AIEE! AMIE!** - Ready to take the lead, senior Amie Shei charges her competitor from behind.